World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2018–2021

Teleconference #18

Teleconference #18 was held on Thursday, 10 September 2020 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Decisions

a. Applications Update
   • The WDS-SC approved an application from the Geoscientific Data & Discovery Publishing System to become a WDS Regular Member. It also reaccredited the Regular membership of WDC for Geophysics, Beijing.

b. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Programme Board Nominations
   • WDS maintains a strong, longstanding connection with GEO as a Participating Organization. It will be beneficial to have WDS representation on the Programme Board. However, it would need to be someone with interests in Earth Science/Remote Sensing. GEO and WDS have a lot of overlapping goals, and this is a very important opportunity to increase WDS visibility. Someone is needed who is responsible and wants to be at this level; it is a prestigious position.
   • The WDS-SC will think about a nomination, either from the Committee of from the WDS community.

c. Session Proposal for International FAIR Convergence Symposium
   • The International Fair Convergence Symposium is now 30 November–4 December, and the deadline has been extended for submitting a session proposal. With WDS in the favourable situation of having abstracts for the Members’ Forum, the WDS-SC can already identify participants in the WDS membership who can be approached to contribute to a session. One of the themes identified by the Forum Subcommittee is directly applicable to FAIR (see below), and might be the best candidate.
   • The WDS-SC decided to wait for the outcomes of the Members’ Forum before making a firm decision on a proposal.

23rd Meeting of the WDS-SC

• Potential items for the 23rd WDS-SC Meeting were presented to the WDS-SC for comment. The WDS-SC suggested that up to one-half of the meeting should consist of a report back on a WDS strategic analysis and WDS positioning within Data Together (DT) since these are the most important topics to discuss. Such a large discussion needs to be broken down into key components, with each having specific time allocated to help everyone participate more easily.
   • The prepared materials need to be circulated well in advance to enable focussed discussion. Moreover, the process for the Meeting will be re-designed to ensure documents are created by more than one person to obtain the greatest value out of everyone's insights, knowledge, and expertise.

Data Together (DT) – Collaborative Projects and WDS Positioning

• The previous discussions the WDS-SC had on WDS collaborations in DT were summarized. The four organizations can bring up different ideas to collaborate among them, but all four do not have to collaborate on each and every topic: there could be alliances between two or among three of them.
   • The WDS-SC has identified a long list of possible activities that WDS could bring forward in the context of DT, but as there is a need to rethink the WDS strategy, this also has implications on such activities, and the latter needs to be considered first.
   • The next DT Leadership Meeting will discuss what the organizations want from and expect of one another. WDS will be a strong partner once it clearly elaborates both its niche contributions, and how DT can help WDS achieve its goals.
   • The WDS-SC deliberated the idea of DT identifying and focussing solely on a single topic to help frame other activities towards addressing the topic. It would be a really powerful statement from all four organizations.
   • The Science Action Plan developed by ISC has identified some of the major challenges of our time, and DT could think about its main purpose in addressing what is missing from one/more of them. To avoid limiting the audience, DT might attempt to address at least two challenges from different domains, or it could make a yearly or a two-year rolling programme where (for example) in each period, one of the Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs) is selected as a focus area. DT can then look at what each organization can contribute to that particular SDG and where it aligns with addressing the ISC Science Action Plan.

- This may be brought to table during the upcoming Leadership Meeting as a basis for discussion. With COVID-19 in the spotlight, topics specifically related to Health and COVID-19 could be used as a good starting point.

**WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO) Update**

- The WDS-SC was asked for the feedback on two documents developed by the WDS-ITO: a two-pager targeted towards funding agencies and trifold brochure that talks about the WDS-ITO more generally. Both of these will be circulated to WDS Members as part of the Members’ Forum.
- The WDS-ITO will join the Board of the Canadian Consortium for Arctic Data Interoperability. This is a really important step for many reasons; especially, there will be a lot of activity around semantics.
- There is a tremendous need for data and data sciences to be involved in the International Joint Commission between the US and Canada concerning their boundary waters, and the WDS-ITO may have role to play here.

**IPO Hosting Subcommittee**

- The Subcommittee has now been formed and had its first meeting a few days prior to the Telecon. A plan for the process was set up, and the criteria and procedures for assessing the Expression of Interests was discussed. The list of criteria will be circulated to the WDS-SC with a short report, and with a request for feedback to adjust the criteria and use them to start the assessment of the bids.

**International Data Symposium**

- **WDS Members’ Forum**
  - Around 100 Representatives of WDS Members have registered to join the Forum, with greater than half of the membership represented in total. Around 55 Members have submitted abstracts for lightning talks, and whilst only 20–25% have submitted their videos, most have promised to do so in the coming days as the deadline approaches.
  - The next step is to think about best to divide the presentations into appropriate thematics. Three potential foci were identified by the Forum’s Programme Subcommittee: (1) interoperability considerations that could be part of a broader FAIR topic; (2) automation, scalability, and cloud use; and (3) sustainability, and making the case that domain repositories need to make clear the value they offer in terms of information or operational use.
  - The first part of the session will now not include any web delivery of the pre-recorded talks. Instead, it will be divided into several panel sessions, and the breakout room functionality used to have further synchronous discussions on topics. The breakouts will be moderated consistently such that participant questions are handled effectively, both spoken and through the chat.
  - The second part of the of Forum is more outward facing, whereby the WDS-SC reports to the membership on current WDS initiatives. This will include details on DT, since the membership needs awareness that this collaboration is underway. WDS members will be asked for their inputs on the greatest value of DT for WDS, and the presentation will address any confusion people have in respect to the roles and relationships of the involved organizations.

- **ORCID–WDS Session**
  - This is a two-part session hosted jointly with ORCID, a WDS Partner Member, and focusing on Persistent Identifiers (PIDs). The first half will introduce the different PID systems, and then the second half looks at practical use cases and best practices. The session includes a very good selection of invited speakers.

- **COVID-19 Session**
  - The session is split into three parts. A presentation will be given on the Virus Outbreak Data Network in the third part of the session.

- **ECR Session**
  - The Early Career Researcher (ECR) session will take place on morning of Friday, 25 September. The WDS-ECR Network Co-chairs sent an email out to all Network members and other cooperative organizations and institutions, and at present, 10 authors have submitted a presentation to the session.